

# **Finding Aid of the Betty Hutchinson Wiser Papers PC.1716**

**Finding aid prepared by Fran Tracy-Walls**

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

State Archives of North Carolina  
2013  
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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	State Archives of North Carolina
<b>Creator</b>	Wiser, Betty H. (Betty Hutchinson)
<b>Title</b>	Betty Hutchinson Wiser Papers
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1951-1991
<b>Extent</b>	57.0 boxes
<b>Language</b>	English

**Language of Materials note** English.

**Biographical Note:** Betty Hutchinson Wiser (1931-2010) was born in Richland County, Ohio, the daughter of Mary Louise Stine and Roscoe David Hutchinson. In 1957 she married Edward H. Wiser, Ph.D., and the couple later moved to Raleigh, N.C. She earned degrees culminating in a doctorate in Adult Education, became a champion for women's rights and senior's Issues, and the cause to fight osteoporosis. She served as the state president of the North Carolina League of Women Voters, served as a representative in the N.C. General Assembly (1985-1990), director of the Wake County Council on Aging, and developed the retired senior volunteer program. Her last professional position was as head of the Older Adult Health Branch in the N.C. Dept. of Health and Human Services.

**Summary** These are the personal papers of Betty H. Wiser stemming from her role in several civic and women's organizations and relating to her participation in and interest in the political process at the state and local level. Throughout the collection there are papers and publications of several organizations in which she was active and in which she held leadership positions. These, however, are not the official chapter records.

The papers consist of five series: the state League of Women Voters, 1951-1976 (including those assembled while she was president of the state League); Wake County Council on Aging, 1974-1990; Political Campaigns and Organizations, 1982-1990; N.C. Council on Status of Women, 1981-1984; and N.C. Council of Women's Organizations, 1972-1983.

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item]. PC.1716, Betty Hutchinson Wiser Papers, State Archives of North Carolina, Raleigh, NC, USA.

## Biographical/Historical note

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Betty Hutchinson Wiser (1931-2010) was born in Richland County, Ohio, to Roscoe David Hutchinson and Mary Louise Stine Hutchinson. She earned a BS degree from Ohio State University in 1954; an MS degree in Home Economics from Ohio State University in 1958; an MS degree in Sociology from North Carolina State University in 1961; and a doctorate degree in Adult Education from North Carolina State University in 1982. Early on Betty developed a love for traveling that began with 4H farm exchanges to Mexico and Italy. Between 1955-1957 she helped organize a girl's school in Northern Iraq where she met her future husband, Edward Hempstead Wiser, Ph.D, an agricultural engineer. They married in 1957 in Shelby, Ohio; subsequently, the couple moved to Raleigh, where they lived until 2007.

Betty H. Wiser's professional background included working as a teacher and home economist and serving as president of the Retirement Planning Associates, Inc.; executive director of the Wake County Council on Aging, Inc.; director and founder of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program of Raleigh-Wake County; and director of Volunteer Training and Volunteer Services projects.

Betty H. Wiser was active in the political affairs of her community, serving as a precinct chair for Wake County and as a member of the Wake County Unity Campaign Committee and the Democratic Women of Wake County. She served as a member of the General Assembly, 1985-1990 serving three terms as a Wake County legislator in the North Carolina House of Representatives. During her tenure in the General Assembly, she made significant contributions as chair of the Committee on Human Resources and as a member of several committees, including Appropriations; Pensions and Retirement; Rules, Appointments and the Calendar; and Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations. She was regarded as a expert on aging, caregiving, and health issues. Legislation sponsored by Mrs. Wiser included bills to expand benefits for poor children and pregnant women. She was defeated in the 1990 Democratic primary, after she joined in 1989, with a group dissident Democrats and Republicans headed by Rep. Joe Mavretic, to oust speaker of the House Liston Ramsey.

Additionally, Betty H. Wiser served as president of the League of Women Voters of North Carolina and co-chair of the Osteoporosis Prevention Task Force of North Carolina, and as a member of the National Association of Women Business Owners, American Business Women Association, American Association of University Women, Older Women's Leagues, North Carolina Adult Education Association, North Carolina Association of Aging, and North Carolina Senior Citizens Association. She also served in many capacities on numerous boards and commissions, including as Director of the North Carolina Center for Public Policy Research, Director of the North Carolina Conference for Social Services, and President of the North Carolina Council of Women's Organizations, and as a member of the North Carolina Council on the Status of Women, North Carolina Family Life Council, and the Capitol Planning Commission.

While a resident of Wake County, Betty was an active member of the Unitarian Church in Raleigh. In 1991 she became Betty became the head of the Older Adult Health Branch in the N.C. Department of Health and Human Resources. In that capacity she initiated and co-chaired the Osteoporosis Coalition of North Carolina. At the time of her death, Betty was serving as co-chair of the Osteoporosis Prevention Task Force of NC, as a senator in the Silver Haired Congress and as an active member of Delta Kappa Gamma. Betty H. Wiser was married for over fifty-two years to Edward, who passed away also in 2010.

At that time the Wisers were living in Falls Church, Virginia. Mrs. Wiser died while on vacation in the Bahamas on February 18, 2010 doing what she loved - traveling and meeting new people. The Wisers were survived by daughter, Carla W. Lounsbury; son, Conrad Wiser; and six grandchildren; and two brothers, Samuel and David Hutchinson.

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## Collection Overview

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These are the personal papers of Betty H. Wiser stemming from her role in several civic and women's organizations and relating to her participation in and interest in the political process at the state and local level. Throughout the collection there are papers and publications of several organizations in which she was active and in which she held leadership positions. These, however, are not the official chapter records. The papers are composed of five series: Series 1. League of Women Voters, 1951-1976, including five boxes of material concerning the national League and twenty-two boxes concerning the state League, along with a few local areas such as Wake County, Pitt County, and Lee County. Series 2. Wake County Council on Aging, 1974-1990, consisting of thirteen boxes. Series 3. Political Campaigns and Organizations, 1982-1990, consisting of seven boxes. Series 4. Council on Status of Women, 1981-1984, consisting of five boxes. Series 5. Council of Women's Organizations, 1972-1983, consisting of four boxes.

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## Collection Arrangement

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Chronological within series and subseries.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Information

State Archives of North Carolina 2013

### Access Restrictions

Available for research.

## Copyright Notice

Copyright is retained by the authors of these materials, or their descendants, as stipulated by United States copyright law (Title 17 US Code). Individual researchers are responsible for using these materials in conformance with copyright law as well as any donor restrictions accompanying the materials.

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## Related Materials

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### Related Collections

Additional information on topics found in this collection may be found in the Manuscript and Archives Reference System (MARS) <http://mars.archives.ncdcr.gov/BasicSearch.aspx>

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## Controlled Access Headings

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### Corporate Name(s)

- National League of Women Voters (U.S.).
- North Carolina Council for Women.
- North Carolina Council on the Status of Women.
- North Carolina League of Women Voters.
- Wake County (N.C.).
- Wake County Council on Aging.
- Wake County Resources for Seniors, Inc.

### Personal Name(s)

- Wiser, Betty H. (Betty Hutchinson)

### Subject(s)

- Aging
- Political campaigns
- Political participation--North Carolina
- Politicians--North Carolina--Correspondence
- Politics and culture--North Carolina.
- Voting--North Carolina
- Women politicians--North Carolina
- Women--20th century.
- Women--North Carolina--Societies and clubs
- Women--Political activity--North Carolina--History--20th century

## **Other Finding Aids note**

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See also Organizational Records, including North Carolina League of Women Voters, ORG.110; North Carolina Council of Women's Organizations Records. ORG.176. Material on the North Council on Status of Women and Council on Women may be found in the State Agency records and some in Governor's Records.

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## **Note Regarding Offsite Unprocessed Material:**

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Approximately 215 cubic feet of unprocessed materials are located at the Old Records Center, Lane Street.



## Collection Inventory

### Series 1. League of Women Voters 1951-1976 27.0 boxes

#### Scope and Contents note

Includes material from the National League of Women Voters, 1951- 1976, such as programs, convention matter, newsletters and miscellaneous publications. Additionally, includes material from the State League of Women Voters, such as annual reports and other reports; business correspondence; publications; resource material and other topics such as environmental, agricultural, and other topics and issues of concern to voters, and local league papers from areas including Wake County; Greenville/Pitt County; Lee County, and others. Box quantities are as follows: National League of Women Voters: 5 boxes; State League of Women Voters : 22 boxes, for a total of 27 boxes. Arrangement of the boxes is often alphabetical, by subject.

<b>National League: Action Alerts-Convention, 1970</b>	<b>Box</b> PC.1716.1
<b>National League: Conventions, 1972 - May 1974</b>	<b>Box</b> PC.1716.2
<b>National League: Council – Misc. League Publications, Btwn 1951 and 1976</b>	<b>Box</b> PC.1716.3
<b>National League: Misc. Publications – Newsletters-Time for Action, Betwn 1951-1976</b>	<b>Box</b> PC.1716.4
<b>National League: News Releases – Welfare, Betwn 1951-1976</b>	<b>Box</b> PC.1716.5
<b>State League: Annual Report - Board Reports Betwn 1951-1976</b>	<b>Box</b> PC.1716.6
<b>State League: Board, misc. – Corresp., misc., 1974</b>	<b>Box</b> PC.1716.7

**State League: Corresp., misc., 1975-Council**

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<b>State League: Corresp., misc., 1975-Council 1975</b>	<b>Box</b> PC.1716.8
<b>State League: Executive Committee Meeting – Local League, Greenville/Pitt Co., Betwn 1951 - 1976</b>	<b>Box</b> PC.1716.9
<b>State League: Local League, Haywood Co.- Local League, Stanley Co. Betwn 1951 - 1976</b>	<b>Box</b> PC.1716.10
<b>State League: Local League, Wake Co., Betwn 1951 - 1976</b>	<b>Box</b> PC.1716.11
<b>State League: Local League, Watauga Co. - Local League Newsletters, Lee Co., PC.1716.12 Betwn 1951-1976</b>	<b>Box</b> PC.1716.12
<b>State League: Local League Newsletters, Louisburg – Membership Lists, Betwn 1951-1976</b>	<b>Box</b> PC.1716.13
<b>State League: Membership matters – Publications – Misc., Betwn 1951-1976</b>	<b>Box</b> PC.1716.14
<b>State League: Publications – Tar Heel Voter – Misc., Betwn 1951-1976</b>	<b>Box</b> PC.1716.15

**Series 2. Wake County Council on Aging 1974-1990 13.0 boxes****Historical note**

The Wake County Council on Aging (WCCA) was a not-for-profit agency incorporated in 1973. The name was changed in 1997 to Resources for Seniors, Inc. The agency is not a governmental body, but it was designated by the Wake County Commissioners to be the lead agency for a variety of aging and disabled services for Wake County residents. The guiding goal has been to reduce fragmentation and to increase quality service for all Wake County residents.

**Scope and Contents note**

**Administrative Files: B-G**

Includes administrative files, program files, general correspondence; budget and fiscal files, including material on federal Title III and Title IX funding, and miscellaneous.	
<b>Administrative Files: B-G 13.0 boxes</b>	<b>Box</b> PC.1716.1
<b>Administrative Files: G (Gen. Corresp. Betty Wiser) 1976-1981</b>	<b>Box</b> PC.1716.2
<b>Administrative Files: G (Gen. Info.) – R 1974-1980</b>	<b>Box</b> PC.1716.3
<b>Administrative Files: R – V (Misc.), 1975-1980</b>	<b>Box</b> PC.1716.4
<b>Program Files: A – F 1976-1981</b>	<b>Box</b> PC.1716.5
<b>Program Files: H – I 1974-1981</b>	<b>Box</b> PC.1716.6
<b>Program Files: L - Sp 1974-1981</b>	<b>Box</b> PC.1716.7
<b>Program Files: Sp – Z, and Misc. 1974-1982</b>	<b>Box</b> PC.1716.8
<b>Fiscal Files: Title IX 1977-1978</b>	<b>Box</b> PC.1716.9
<b>Fiscal Files : Title IX 1978-1980</b>	<b>Box</b> PC.1716.10
<b>Fiscal Files: Title III 1973-1980</b>	<b>Box</b> PC.1716.11
<b>Fiscal Files: CETA Title III 1975-1979</b>	<b>Box</b> PC.1716.12
<b>Fiscal Files: Budget &amp; Misc. 1973-1981</b>	<b>Box</b> PC.1716.13
<b>Series 3. Political Campaigns and Organizations 1982-1990 7.0 boxes</b>	
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>	

## Betty Wiser's Campaign

Includes a variety of material on Political Campaigns and Organizations and Betty Wiser's Campaign. The categories are Betty Wiser's Campaign; Other Campaigns: National; Other Campaigns: State; Other Campaigns: State Legislative, County, and City Campaigns.

<b>Betty Wiser's Campaign 1982; 1984; 1986; 1988; 1990</b>	<b>Box</b> PC.1716.1
<b>Betty Wiser's Campaign-2 1982; 1984; 1986; 1988; 1990</b>	<b>Box</b> PC.1716.2
<b>Other Campaigns: National Campaigns</b>	<b>Box</b> PC.1716.3
<b>Other Campaigns: State Campaigns</b>	<b>Box</b> PC.1716.4
<b>Other Campaigns: State Legislative, County, &amp; City Campaigns</b>	<b>Box</b> PC.1716.5
<b>Other Campaigns: Political Organizations</b>	<b>Box</b> PC.1716.6
<b>Other Campaigns: Political Organizations</b>	<b>Box</b> PC.1716.7

### Series 3. Council on Status of Women 1981-1984 5.0 boxes

#### Scope and Contents note

Includes council administrative and general files; program files; references files; U.S. Department of Labor Women's Bureau; business correspondence; commission; publications; magazine article and news clippings; and material on older women's issues.

#### Historical note:

The N.C. Council on the Status of Women was established by Executive Order in 1963 by Governor Terry Sanford to advise the governor, state agencies and the legislature on issues of concern to and impacting North Carolina women. In the 1973 the council came under the umbrella of the N.C.

**Council Files: Programs A - J**

Department of Administration The N.C. General Assembly during the 1991 session changed the name to the North Carolina Council for Women.	
<b>Council Files: Programs A - J 1981-1984</b>	<b>Box</b> PC.1716.1
<b>Programs: L - Pe</b>	<b>Box</b> PC.1716.2
<b>Programs: Pi-W</b>	<b>Box</b> PC.1716.3
<b>Reference; USDL Women's Bureau; Corresp.; Commissions; Publications</b>	<b>Box</b> PC.1716.4
<b>Reference: Magazine Article; News Clippings; Older Women</b>	<b>Box</b> PC.1716.5
<b>Series 4. Council of Women's Organizations 1972-1983 4.0 boxes</b>	
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>	
Includes council programs and financial files, including budget and fundraising; publications such as directories and newsletters; and news clippings.	
<b>Historical note</b>	
The Council of Women's Organizations was formed in 1952 and chartered in 1959. It was founded to serve as a clearinghouse for women's groups, to prevent duplication of effort and provide the opportunity for partnerships.	
<b>Council Files 1973-1979</b>	<b>Box</b> PC.1716.1
<b>Council Programs 1973-1983</b>	<b>Box</b> PC.1716.2
<b>Finance: Audit; Budget; Fund Raising; Grant Proposals</b>	<b>Box</b> PC.1716.3

**Publications, Directories and Newsletters, Newspaper Clippings**

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**Publications, Directories and Newsletters, Newspaper Clippings 1972-1981**

**Box**  
PC.1716.4